

Jackie Lacey
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NEWS RELEASE

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**Man Charged With Capital Murder for Attacks
on Homeless and Others**

A man was charged today with killing three people, two of whom were transients, and injuring five others in a series of attacks this month in Los Angeles and Santa Monica, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Ramon Alberto Escobar (dob 6/5/71) was charged in case BA471690 with three counts of murder, five counts of attempted murder and four counts of second-degree robbery. He also faces special circumstance allegations of multiple murders and murder during the commission of a robbery, making him eligible for the death penalty.

Escobar is scheduled to be arraigned today in Department 30 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center.

Deputy District Attorney Victor Avila of the Major Crimes Division is prosecuting the case.

On Sept. 16, Escobar is accused of beating three homeless men and robbing one of them in downtown Los Angeles. Two of the men, Branden Ridout and Kelvin Williams, were killed. Another man suffered serious injuries.

Escobar then allegedly beat, killed and robbed Steven Cruze whose body was found under the Santa Monica Pier on Sept. 20.

The defendant also is accused of attacking a man on Sept. 8 at a Santa Monica beach, another victim two days later, also in Santa Monica, and two others in separate incidents over the past several days in downtown Los Angeles.

According to the criminal complaint, Escobar used a baseball bat or blunt object during the alleged crimes.

Escobar faces a possible maximum sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole or death if convicted as charged. A decision will be made at a later date on whether to seek the death penalty.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles and Santa Monica police departments.

[About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#)

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.